

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-16, 19-23, 25, 26, 28-32, and new claims 41-45 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 36-40 were previously canceled after being withdrawn due to a Restriction Requirement.

ADVISORY ACTION

The Advisory Action indicated that the claim amendments made in the Response to Final Office Action dated August 28, 2007 would be entered. Thus, the current amendments are in addition to the previous amendments in the paper dated August 28, 2007.

CURRENT AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11, 13-23 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,859 (“Sutter”).

The previous arguments set forth in Response to Final Office Action regarding Sutter’s lack of a feedback feature are incorporated by reference. For brevity, all of those arguments will not be repeated, but the Applicants would respectfully request the Examiner to consider those arguments in conjunction with the present arguments. On one point in particular, it is noted that there is no resilient section in the stem of Sutter’s abutment 20 that expands outwardly into the enlarged groove of the implant in response to the abutment being properly seated on the implant. The Final Office Action suggested that Sutter’s “main cylindrical section” 14 of the implant bore is the “enlarged groove.” The Applicants respectfully suggest that cylindrical section 14 defines the central bore, but there is no feature on it that could be considered an “enlarged groove” within the central bore. In any event, Sutter’s main cylindrical section 14 does not cooperate with Sutter’s abutment 201 to provide feedback. Nor does any feature on Sutter’s abutment 201 expand outwardly into the enlarged groove in response to the abutment being properly seated on the implant.

In short, it is the Applicants’ position that Sutter lacks any feedback feature that provides an indication as to when the abutment is properly seated on the implant. However, with an effort to move the application towards a condition for allowance, the Applicants have amended the independent claims to further define the nature of the claimed feedback feature.

Regarding claim 1, there is no teaching in Sutter of an enlarged groove or resilient fingers that snap outwardly into the enlarged groove to provide a tactile feedback. Nor does Sutter teach an enlarged groove in the implant's bore that is spaced below the non-round section by a distance greater than the axial dimension of the groove.

Regarding claim 10, Sutter does not teach an undercut surface having a diameter that is larger than a diameter of a cylindrical wall of the interior bore located directly above the undercut surface. Nor does Sutter teach a feedback feature on the abutment that expands outwardly and engages such an undercut surface.

Regarding claim 11, Sutter does not teach the claimed feedback feature, or an implant with two distinct internal anti-rotational features.

Regarding claim 14, Sutter does not teach an abutment with the plurality of resilient fingers that are located on a diameter that is greater than a diameter of a section of the stem that is immediately above the plurality of resilient fingers.

Regarding claim 20, Sutter does not teach an implant having an enlarged groove that is separated from the non-round cross-section portion by a wall section, wherein the enlarged groove has a maximum diameter that is larger than a diameter of the wall section. Further, Sutter fails to teach that the abutment has a resilient section with a diameter that is greater than the diameter of the wall section of the implant such that the resilient section, upon insertion into the internal bore, initially contracts when moving past the wall section and then expands outwardly into the enlarged groove.

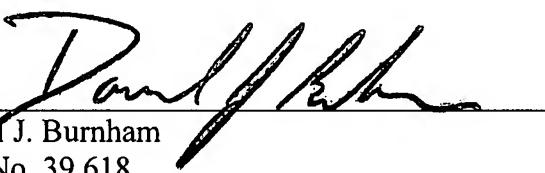
And in a manner similar to claim 14, new independent claim 41 requires the stem to have the plurality of fingers located on a diameter that is greater than a diameter of an intermediate wall section of the stem that is immediately above the plurality of fingers.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the pending claims are patentable over the prior art and action towards that end is respectfully requested.

If any matters may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number shown.

Respectfully submitted,



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